The "Day of the Lord" Shall Come!

2 Peter 3:10-13

5/24/09

Introduction: vv.3-9

Note the emphasis: "Seeing (v.11)…Looking (v.12)…look (v.13&14)"

- ***The impending Day of the Lord should <u>change the believer's outlook</u> toward life on earth and the future***

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

I. **A <u>Vigilant</u> outlook for the Return of Jesus Christ** (v.10a)
("…as a thief in the night")

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

II. **A <u>Certain</u> outlook for God's Coming Judgment** (v.10b)
("…<u>will</u> come…<u>shall</u> pass away…elements <u>shall</u> melt…")

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

III. **A <u>Sober</u> outlook toward the world and its material goods** (v.11a)
("Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved…")

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

IV. **A <u>Conscientious</u> outlook at our personal Lives and Lifestyles** (v.11b - 12)
("What manner of persons ought ye to be…")

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

V. **An <u>Optimistic</u> outlook toward our future abode with God and righteousness** (v.13)
("we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth…")

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v. 3

"In the last days" - one of the signs of the last days will be the existence of abundant scoffers (mockers) regarding the Lord's return. In an attempt to discourage thoughts regarding Christ's return, Satan will energize and motivate those who belong to him so that they will spread a propaganda to discourage the faith of others. These false teachers will literally deny the Lord who bought them (2:1). And more specifically, they will deny His impending return.

Jude also warned of End Time scoffers –

Jude 1:17-19

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

--Expect opposition to eschatological teaching

--Expect numerous denials of Rapture & Wrath teaching

--Expect people to laugh at the concept of the second coming of Christ

v. 4

What is the specific content of the scoffer?

"Where is the promise of His coming?" – What has become of His so-called promise to return?

With skepticism they will ask: "Do you really believe that stuff about Christ coming in the clouds, removing His people from the earth, and then destroying the earth by fire?"

Peter gives us several reasons for the Lord's apparent delay:

1. God judged the world in the Past; He'll do it again (v.5-7)

2. God is not Time-bound nor is He under Time Constraints (v.8)

3. God's apparent delay gives Sinners Time to Repent (v.9)

Although the lost, misguided, deluded world will not expect Christ's return, and religious scoffers will even mock such a concept, Jesus is coming again and judgment day for planet earth shall come.

Notice the repeated words emphasizing the future certainty of this event: "will" (v. 10). . . "shall" . . . "shall" . . . "shall" . . . "shall" (v. 11) . . . "shall" . . . "shall" (v. 12)

Our response is to "look" for such promises to be fulfilled! -- "seeing" (v. 11) . . . "looking" (v. 12) . . . "look" (v. 13-14)

- ***The impending Day of the Lord should change the believer's outlook toward life on earth and the future***

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

I. A Vigilant outlook for the Return of Jesus Christ (v.10a)
("…as a thief in the night")

v. 10

The **"Day of the Lord"** is linked in this context to Christ's "coming" (v. 4).

The order of God's key end-time events: First, the Rapture, then God's wrath.

The timing of the Day of the Lord coincides with the timing of the Rapture (the Rapture involving the rapid removal of God's people and the resurrection of the just will occur on the same day as the commencement of the Day of the Lord).

Note: the connection between the "Rapture" (1 Thes. 4:13-18) and the "Day of the Lord" (1 Thes. 5:1-2).

1 Thessalonians 5:2
For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
While the unregenerate world will be caught off guard (by surprise), God's people will not. We will be spiritually awake and alert at His coming.

1 Thessalonians 5:4
But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Believers will not be caught by surprise.
Believers will not be caught in the dark.

Those in darkness will be saying "Peace and safety" (v. 3), not fearing the impending wrath of God.

The "Day of the Lord" – 3 ideas:

1) A Day known only by the Lord – the Day of the Lord will initiate a time known only by God.
   Matthew 24:36
   But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

2) A Day (or time period) in which only the Lord is exalted (Man's day and the times of the Gentiles will be over) (Is. 2:11, 17)

3) A Day of the Lord's wrath and judgment upon the earth (because of man's sin)

"As a Thief in the night" - (New Yorkers can understand the concept of thieves coming in the night)

--A thief does not announce his arrival
--A thief generally does his work while others are sleeping or distracted

Matthew 24:42-44
Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
Revelation 3:3
Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
Revelation 16:15
Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

"The picture (of a 'thief in the night') conveys the clear warning that the Day of the Lord will come suddenly and unexpectedly, resulting in surprise and irreparable loss for the unprepared" (Hiebert, p. 158-9).

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

II. A <u>Certain</u> outlook for God's Coming Judgment (v.10b)
("…<u>will</u> come…<u>shall</u> pass away…elements <u>shall</u> melt…")

Some things in life may or may not take place; God's wrath falling on planet earth is not a "maybe"; it's a certainty!

"…<u>will</u> come…<u>shall</u> pass away…elements <u>shall</u> melt…"

"In the which" – the Day of the Lord will involve more than the disintegration of sky, space and earth (it will involve all of the Trumpet and Bowl judgments described in Rev. 8-19). However, "in the which" time period of the Day of the Lord (i.e. sometime during the "Day of the Lord"), God will fulfill this verse!

"The heavens" = sky and outer space, as Jesus said:

Luke 21:33-36
Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

"Pass away" – to go by or go away (the word speaks of the physical movement of planets) –

Just as John wrote regarding the loosing of the sixth seal:

Revelation 6:13-14
And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
Just as Jesus said:

Matthew 24:29
Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

"With a great noise" - (*hroizedon*) with a hissing or whizzing sound, as an arrow or ball that rips through the air or with a crackling sound as the roar of a flame

"The elements" – "Things arranged in a row; the letters of the alphabet, or the elements of nature. Here it clearly means physical elements (Bigg). It could refer to the elements of earth, air, fire and water, or the heavenly bodies such as sun, moon and stars (Green). Or it may refer to the atomic particles that are the basic structure of nature" (cited by Rogers, p. 589).

If atomic dissolution is meant, God is referring to the elements of physical life becoming "unglued," which would involve the separation of protons, neutrons, and electrons from each other. Such a melting of physical life is described in Zech. 14:12 –

Zechariah 14:12
And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

"Melt" – (*luo*) to loosen, to disintegrate. The word is used of breaking up a structure, as well as of dissolving a compound into its elements (Mayor, cited by Rogers, p. 589).

So the elements or building blocks of life will disintegrate and literally melt in the intense heat.

Whereas God judged the earth by water (the Flood) the first time, He will judge by fire the second time He judges the earth (2 Pet. 3:6-7).

The **"earth" –** (*ge*) the planet and physical life on it (supernaturally protected will be those sealed with God's mark [Rev. 7] and some of the animal realm).

"The works" – (*erga*) the accomplishments and achievements of man (all buildings, all structures, all vehicles, tools, toys, bridges, boats, utensils, materials, and manufactured goods).

One of the ways or means which God will use to burn up the earth with its works is through major <u>earthquakes</u>.

Revelation 16:18
And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.
"Mystery Babylon" will burn at this time –

Revelation 18:8-11
Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

"The Day of the Lord" –

SEE: Isaiah 2:10-12, 17-21; 13:6-13; Amos 5:18-20.
Every reference to the Day of the Lord describes unparalleled terror and judgment, not congruous with a major portion of the early stages of the 7-year Tribulation.

The Day of the Lord will be:
1) A day when only the Lord will be exalted (not the Antichrist) (Is. 2:17)
2) A day of desperation (Is. 2:19)
3) A day when God shakes the earth (Is. 2:21)
4) A day of fainting hands and melting hearts (Is. 13:7)
5) A day of shocking pain (Is. 13:8)
6) A day of signs in the sky (Is. 13:10)
7) A day of no deliverance (Ezek. 7:19)
8) A day of destruction (Joel 1:15)
9) A day of torment (Joel 2:1-6)
10) A day of no escape (Amos 5:18-19)
11) A day of darkness (Amos 5:20)
12) A day of judgment on the heathen (Gentiles) (Obad. 15)
13) A day of wrath (Zeph. 1:15)
14) A day of no hope (Zeph. 1:17)
15) A day of cosmic disturbances (Zech. 14:6-7)

Zephaniah 1:14-18
The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

III. A <u>Sober</u> outlook toward the world and its material goods (v.11a)
("Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved…")

v. 11

"All these things shall be dissolved" – All these material things shall be disintegrated. They shall melt into worthless elements.

You can't have "stuff" forever! Don't live for "stuff." There is nothing wrong with having "stuff," but don't let the "stuff" have you! No material thing is an end in and of itself, but is a means to an end. Use it for God's glory alone! But don't abuse it as if it were an idol.

1 Corinthians 7:31
And they that use this world, as not abusing *it*: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

You can't take it with you! Although the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt were buried with their treasures, they never lived again to enjoy them. I have never seen a u-haul following a funeral processional.

Remember the words of Jesus when He said:

Matthew 6:19-20
Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

> **V. 19**
> The words ***"lay up"*** (thesaurizo) and ***"treasures"*** (thesauros) come from the same Greek root. Our English word "thesaurus" refers to a treasury of words.
>
> ***"Lay not up"*** - Don't treasure up; don't stock up; don't live for the vain accumulation of riches.
>
> He means: Don't have a lifestyle of hoarding treasure (Heb. 13:5 - *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*). Don't make it your life's ambition. If wealth comes your way, praise God for it and use it for God's glory, but don't give yourself greedily to acquiring it and don't glory in the money (Jer. 9:23 - *"Let not the rich man glory in his riches"*).
>
> We are <u>stewards</u> of our earthly "treasures" (money) -- <u>not owners</u>. All we have ultimately belongs to Him, We simply <u>manage</u> what He has entrusted to us.

Col. 3:1-2 - *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."*

The best investment is eternal. The smartest investor is the one who gives his life (his time, talents, and treasure) for the cause of Jesus Christ.

The dividends you earn can't be ripped off, nor can they be taxed by the IRS!

When we get to Heaven and look back over our lives,s I'm sure we will grieve over what could have been. What we could have done!

HYMN: "Must I go and empty-handed? Must I meet my Savior so??

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

IV. A <u>Conscientious</u> outlook at our personal Lives and Lifestyles (v.11b - 12)
("What manner of persons ought ye to be…")

"What manner of persons ought ye to be" – what sort of Christian should you become in light of the temporal nature of this world's system and goods?

"Holy conversation" – set-apart conduct; pure living; sanctified lifestyle. The believer's way of life should be marked by holiness.

"Godliness" – a life of respect and reverence for God and eternal matters.

Whereas Holy Conduct refers to outward behavior, the term Godliness refers to the inward attitude.

v. 12

"Looking for" = anxiously awaiting; looking forward to with expectancy

"Hasting" = to be eager for something to happen with speed and acceleration

"Coming" - "'The coming' translates the familiar term *parousia*, which literally means "the presence." In the New Testament it does not primarily describe a place or event. Instead, the term emphasizes the personal, bodily arrival of Jesus Christ. Some commentators equate the day of God with the "day of the Lord," but they are not synonymous expressions. The day of God refers to the eternal state when God will have permanently subdued all of His enemies (cf. Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:33-35; 1 Cor. 15:28; Phil. 2:10-11, 3:21; Heb. 10:13)." (MacArthur, p. 129).

"The Day of God" – Question: Is this describing the same period as the Day of the Lord, or is it the ultimate time of God's judgment when He sends down fire at the end of the Millennium?

Revelation 20:9
And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

"Elements shall <u>melt</u>" – to be made liquid

The impending "Day of the Lord" should produce…

V. An <u>Optimistic</u> outlook toward our future abode with God and righteousness (v.13)
("we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth…")

v. 13

"According to His promise" – Where is His promise recorded?

Isaiah 65:17
For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 60:21
Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

"New" = not *neos*, meaning new in time (as a new creation, new in existence), but *kainos*, meaning new in <u>quality</u> or "<u>fresh</u>" (as contrasted to the "worn out" or "marred through age," with no trace of the effects which sin and evil wrought upon the old. (Hiebert, p. 165).

SEE Revelation 21:1-5

***Keep your eyes on your <u>future inheritance</u>!**

A <u>NEW</u> City (v. 1, 2, 5)

V. 1

God promises to "<u>create</u>" (bara) new heavens and a new earth (Is. 65:17); and to "<u>make</u>" (asa) them to "remain" (forever) (Is. 66:22).

The word "create" normally means to create something out of <u>nothing</u>, as God did with the first heavens and earth (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3).

The O.T. describes the earth as "<u>abiding forever</u>"

Eccl. 1:4 - "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."

Ps. 119:90 - "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."

Ps. 104:5 - "Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever."

Question: God on the one hand says that He will make a new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21:1), and on the other hand He says that the present earth will remain forever.

How can God, make a new one, yet keep the existing one? Answer: He will totally ("from scratch") create a brand new earth, and He will remove (not destroy or annihilate) this present globe, and replace it with a new earth.

God will renovate, remodel or reconstruct the earth's surface (via fire - II Pet. 3:10-13) for the millennial kingdom (Rev. 20:1-10; Is. 40:3-4).

However, God will remove and replace the existing earth for the eternal state.

Proofs that this present globe (earth) will be removed (geographically) to make way for the new earth.

1) Rev. 21:1 - "Passed away" - to go away; to depart (NOTE: God never says that the earth will annihilate into nothingness but that it will go away).

2) Rev. 20:11 - "Fled away" - to run away (in distance)

3) Jesus promise: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35; cp. Mk. 13:31: Lk. 21:33; Mt. 5:18). "Pass away" = to go away

4) Heb. 4:26 - 28 - "...the removing of those things that are shaken..." "Removing" = metathesis - Meta = to change; "tithemi" = position (where something is placed. Hence the earth will have a change of location. It will be removed beyond view (Is. 65:17); it will be a useless uninhabited planet, light years removed from the new creation.

In light of the removal of this planet, are you wise to lay up treasures on earth? Are the things of this world good investments when you have the complete picture in mind? (II Pet. 3:10-13)

V. 5

"I make all things new" - Just as God does for the Christian (II Cor. 5:17 - "...All things become new"), He will do for creation.

A HOLY City (v. 2a)

"The Holy City" (cp. 21:10) - the set apart city; the city of spotless purity. A city like no other. A city "whose builder and maker is God!" (cp. Heb. 11:10).

Jesus Christ has been preparing such a dwelling place since His ascension (Jn. 14:2). In this city there will be no defilement or sinful people (21:27).

"Coming down from God" - only God can create a perfect city. Man's attempts have been utter failures. There will be no corruption in that city!

A BEAUTIFUL City (v. 2b)

"Prepared" = to make ready - "I go to prepare a place for you" (Jn. 14:2)

"Adorned" = Greek "Kosmeo" (Eng. cosmetics) - to make orderly; to put in order; to decorate; to make beautiful or attractive.

In Bible days, Jewish custom was as follows: "In preparation for the marriage and the arrival of the groom the bride was bathed and oiled, perfumed, her hair fixed, and was adorned with her wedding garment" (Reinecker, p. 859).

"As a bride adorned for her husband" - To think that God loves us so much that he has prepared a dwelling place for us so beautiful that it will satisfy every aspiration, and will surpass every imagination we ever had.

This heavenly city will be the sum total of our every heart's desire and then some.

More beautiful than the most majestic mountain. More sparkling than the water of the freshest spring or most invigorating water fall. More serene than the most calm and most peaceful lakes. More clean than the most remote land in the world.

The heavenly city will be the most beautiful sight we ever set eyes on.

The sight had such an impact on John that he spends two chapters (Rev. 21:1-22:5) and a total of 32 verses describing it.

A GOD - INDWELT City (v. 3)

"Tabernacle" - a dwelling place where everyone is under the same roof.

We will forever be in the direct presence of God.

The heavenly city will be a place of intimate closeness to God ("He will dwell with them" (like Adam had before the fall).

The heavenly city will be a place of abiding relationship with God ("They shall be his people")

The heavenly city will be a place of personal fellowship with God ("God himself shall be with them" - the presence of God the Father will be our joy forever - Ps. 16:11).

A JOY-FILLED City (v. 4-5)

"No more death" - "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (I Cor. 15:26).

"Shall wipe away all tears" - lit. every tear (singular) - God is concerned about each individual tear that is shed for righteousness sake . Tears shed in the tribulation will be wiped away by the hand of God (Rev. 7:17).

Tears, sorrow, and crying are usually the results of death and pain. Because death and pain will be no more, neither will the expressions of such exist. As the prophet said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces" (Is. 25:8).

"Crying" - Ps. 30:5 - "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning"

For the believer, crying is temporary - it is joy that will be eternal!

"The former things are passed away" - Those that inhabit the new heavenly city will not even remember the former life on earth. God says: "...And the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind" (Is. 65:17).

V. 5

"These words are true and faithful" = "True" - God promise is not lie. This is one thing God can never do (Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2)

"Faithful" - God's promise is true it is worthy of your faith (trust). Without a doubt, He will certainly do all that He has promised. God's guarantee of eternal life is something you can rest upon.